Approval for Super Thermal Power Station at Talcher, Orissa

*345. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial approval has been obtained for the Super Thermal Power Station at Talcher, Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The proposal relating to the Talchar Super Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) of the National Thermal Power Corporation is being processed for government approval after its clearance from the environmental and forestry angles.

SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Madam, the answer is not clear. My question was: What is the reason for delaying approval of the project? This proposal has already been pending with the Government since long and whenever a question is asked, the answer is being repeated by the Government. Clearance for the forest and the environment has been given long back. Will the Minister give a commitment by what date the Government is going to give approval to this project? (b) What is the cost of the project? How is the Government going to arrange the finances? Is it a fact that World Bank is going to finance this project (c) What is the time-schedule for starting of the project and completion of the project?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: The Talcher Project has been accepted by the Government of India. NTPC is going to complete this project. Site work for infrastructural development has been initiated. Land acquisition activity is in progress and possession of about thirty acres of Government land has been obtained. Construction of site office, storage shed and transit camp are in progress. Arrangements for construction of power and water storages at site are being made. Electricity generation package for the project is proposed to be manufactured by BHEL India in association with stein Industry of France who is also arranging a suitable financing package. Technical offer earlier submitted by BHEL and stein has been evaluated and further negotiations are in progress to arrive at a price expeditiously. The bids for the TG package Project is to be procured with World Bank financing for which global tenders have been invited and the same are presently under evaluation. The Seventh Plan provision for the project is Rs. 273 crores. Annual Plan for 1988-89 has provided for Rs. 73.97 crores. The power generated from the project would be distributed to the State Electricity Boards under a Central formula. And this project will cost near about Rs. 1400 crores

SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: My question was: When is the Government going to approve this project? Will the Government give a commitment by which date this project would be approved by the Government? It is true that before approval of this project work has already started...

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: This project has already been approved and infrastructural construction is going on.

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Andhra Pradesh is adjacent to Orissa and, therefore, I may be allowed to ask this question. Muddanur Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh will be a boon to the most backward and constantly drought affected Rayalaseema area. A proposal for posing this Muddanur Project for World Bank assistance is pending with the Government of India. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether this Muddanur Thermal Power Project has been posed for World Bank assistance or not.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: This question does not arise out of the main question.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: The Minister has said that the project has been approved by the Government. I would like

to know when the Central Electricity Authority cleared this project to be set up at Talcher because this is a Central project. I would also like to know whether World Bank has accepted the project and what the funding pattern of this project is...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That he has already mentioned.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: I want to know from the honourable Minister categorically whether World Bank has accepted it or not because this project is pending with the Central Government for the past few years and no work has been started so far. I would further like to say that on the recommendation of the Selection Committee appointed by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power in the year 1976, six places were selected for setting up a super-thermal power plant in the country. In all the projects, work has already started except Talcher. So, I would like to know when the work is going to be started at Talcher. So far, funding pattern has not been decided, and the World Bank has not accepted the proposal. I want to know whether the World Bank has accepted the proposal.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Madam, the World Bank has accepted the proposal. It was approved by the Central Electricity Authority. Then it was sent to the Public Investment Board. It was also accepted there. Then the Planning Commission also accepted it. There was a cost escalation. Therefore updated cost has also to be approved. The Government of India, with the help of the World Bank Funds, has to approve this scheme. Infrastructural construction is going on. And this project will be completed within five years. This project is of 3,000MW and it will herald a new era of prosperity for Orissa people.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 346.

*346. [*The questioner (Shri Prabhakar Rao Kalvala) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 31-32 *infra.*]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 347.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, Question No. 347.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : जब राय उत्तर ढूंढ रहे हैं तो प्रश्नकाल का समय बढ़ाया जाए जितना ढूंढने में समय जा रहा है।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The hon. Minister is searching the answer. It will be very difficult to reach Tuticorin. (*Interruptions*).

Project Report on Tuticorin Power Station

*347. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 294 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th August, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the detailed project report relating to the setting up of Extension Stage-III (2x200MW) at the Tuticorin Thermal Power Station has since been received from the Tamil Nadu Government; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Tuticorin Thermal Power Project Extension Stage-III is now being implemented as a State Sector project.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, Deputy Chairman, the Government gave its reply to my Starred Question on 17th August last year that the Government of Tamil Nadu had proposed the setting up of Extension Stage-III with a capacity of 420 MW at the Tuticorin Thermal Power Station through a joint sector company formed with the participation of a consor-

†The question was actually asked on the door of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.